

TRAILS TRACTOR - HISTORIC WALK

Time:- 10 min return

Suitable for wheelchairs.

Start / Finish: Fleming River Bridge on the Southern Scenic Route. This walk is rich in early Catlins Timber milling history and travels to Cook's old mill site (Rimu was used for building, Beech for making furniture, binders and reapers for farming. Kowhai was milled for fence posts, railway sleepers and boat building). A restored "Trails Tractor" logging machine here gives one an idea of the extent of the business.

CHASLANDS

CATHEDRAL CAVES - WAIPATI BEACH

Time:- Approx. 1 hour return

Start / Finish:- Car park at the end of a former logging road. Sign posted from Southern Scenic Route. This is Maori land and access is by courtesy of the owners who maintain the walking track and facilities. The track runs through Podocarp/Kamahahi forest the last 100m being in the Waipati Beach Scenic Reserve. A short walk North along the beach brings you to the caves. **This can only be made at low tide.**

The caves are more than 30 metres high in places and have been formed by the persistent action of the sea cutting deep into the cliffs. Well worth arranging to stay in the area until low tide.

Tide times are available at the Catlins Information Centre.

Accommodation

Forest and Bird Holiday Complex
Youth Adventure Trust Centre
Chasland Farm Motor Lodge
Podocarp Forest: - Totara

For More Information

CATLINS COMMUNITY INFORMATION CENTRE

Main Road, Owaka Phone: (03) 415-8371

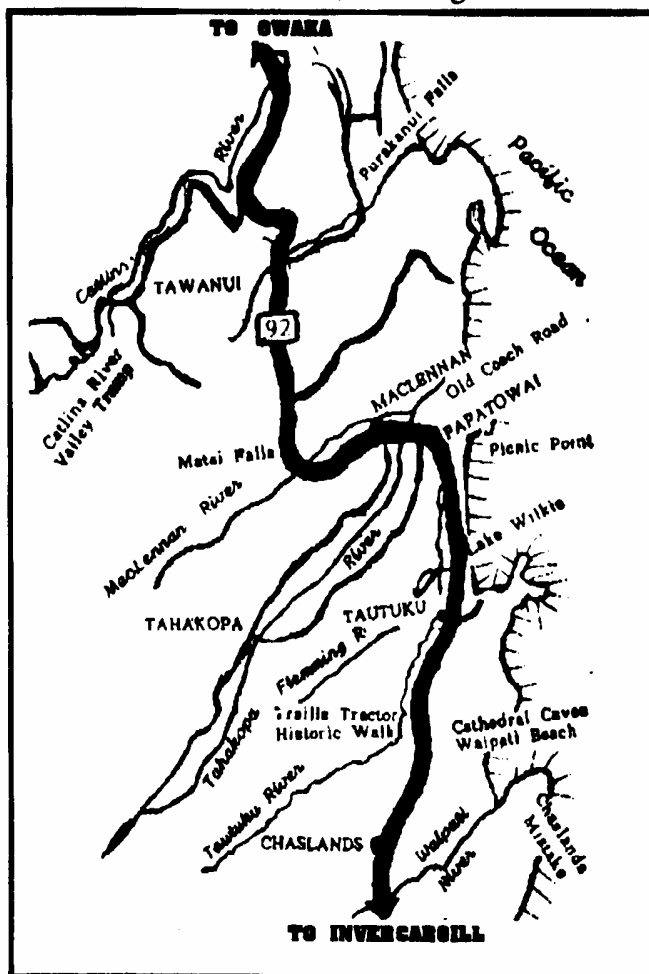
For More Walks in the South Area

South Catlins Promotion

Dolphin Visitor Centre - Waikawa

Visitor Information

Queens Park, Invercargill



For more detailed information on the tracks, which are D.O.C. Administered and for details of Accommodation please call at the Information Centre

Walks In The Clutha DISTRICT

Owaka Tautuku Papatowai Chaslands



OWAKA

CATLINS RIVER VALLEY

Time: Total tramp 5-6 hour each way, can do one way and have a driver pick you up the the Wisp. Wisp to Tawanui Picnic Area. You can break it up into three shorter trips.

Wisp to Wallis Stream - 1 hour.

Wallis Stream to Franks Creek - 2.5 hours.

Start/Finish: From Tawanui Picnic area a public road follows the east side of the Catlins River Gorge, travelling through exotic pine plantations into beech forest and the grassland of the Wisp Run.

Care - this road is used by logging trucks and may be locked on occasions.

At the Wisp picnic area the track crosses a swing bridge and follows the true right side of the river through the beech forest. The river is bridged again at Wallis Stream where a short track leads from the grass area back up to the road if you wish to do only this bit. Otherwise the track mainly follows the river with many small rapids rushing over the stony riverbed. It is bridged about halfway and again at Franks Creek where a steep track leads back to the road. The final stage follows the true left bank through silver beech and exotic forest to Tawanui. The track provides excellent opportunities for trout fishing. Tawanui has a water tap and toilets and you can stay if self-contained.

PURAKAUNUI FALLS

Time: 15 minutes from car park to Falls

Start/Finish: Car park and toilets, Purakaunui Road. Sign posted from the South end of the Catlins River bridge on the Southern Scenic Route. Suitable for wheelchairs to the top viewing point. In places along the Purakaunui stream almost pure stands of silver beech exist while further within the mix of podocarp and beech can be seen, including large rimu. A track takes you down to the lower viewing point.

MATAI FALLS

Time: 30 minutes return

Start/Finish: Table Hill Scenic Reserve car park adjacent to Southern Scenic Route approximately 18 km south of Owaka.

A tent town (Caberfeidh) of some 400 people existed in the area of the carpark. The walk takes you through regenerating podocarp/broadleaf forest and is signposted. The Matai Falls are very beautiful and best viewed late in the morning when the sun penetrates the forest.

Accommodation

Owaka Lodge Motels

Highview Motel and Backpackers

Catlins Backpackers - Owaka

Pounaweia Motor Camp

Pounaweia Keswick Family Camp

PAPATOWAI

OLD COACH ROAD

Time: 1 hour return.

Start/Finish: The car park at the north end of the Tahakopa River bridge on the Southern Scenic Route. Coaches forded the river just below the present bridge, and you follow the same route to the beach (much of the formation is still visible). The silver beech you see are the southern-most stand of this species, also you will see young totara and tree ferns. Near the mouth of the river where the totara are growing was the site of a moa hunters camp and has been the centre of much archaeological interest. Alternately continue along the beach to the end and rejoin the Old Coach Road as it climbs up the hill to Purakauiti, eventually joining the Puaho Road which descends to the MacLennan River and rejoins the Southern Scenic Route.

This would be a days walk.

ADDITIONAL WALK

Through Forest Reserve to Beach

Time 3 hours return

Start/Finish Tahakopa River Bridge track is sign posted.

It takes you through this magnificent forest reserve to the beach and the Moa hunters camp.

PICNIC POINT

Time: 30 minutes each way.

Start/Finish: Sign posted in Papatowai Village

Suitable for all ages.

This track traverses the Papatowai Scenic Reserve providing plenty of variety. The main canopy tree is Kamahi with many Matai and Rimu above. After reaching the coast at Picnic Point where the layers of rock give some indication of the geology of the region, return via the sandy shore. At low tide you can explore the rock pools. An extension of the track towards Kings Rock offers bush scenery and viewpoints of small bays and seascapes. This will add 30 minutes each way to the walk.

Accommodation

Hilltop Backpackers

H & G Geissler

Papatowai Motor Camp

Scenic Highway Motel

TAUTUKU

LAKE WILKIE

Time - 20 minutes return

Start/Finish Just south of the Tautuku Outdoor Education Centre on Southern Scenic Route.

A short walk takes you to a boardwalk over part of the Lake and shows the unique forest sequence. When the Rata is in flower around the viewing area, there can be a magnificent feast of colour as well as sound, as tui and bellbird enjoy the nectar.

ESTUARY BOARDWALK

Time: 20 minutes return

Start/Finish: Fleming River Bridge on Southern Scenic Route.

This peaceful walk meanders out onto the Estuary into Fernbird habitat, along with numerous other wading birds.